

What Makes A Deed Good?

Every true Christian wants to do good things in their lives. We are even told in the Christian Bible that we were called by the Creator God to do good works.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

The good works will **not** save us from our deserved death, only the grace of the Creator God through the sacrifice on the cross can do this.

But our response to this grace must be acts of love towards other human beings, this is part of the practical proof of conversion.

2 Corinthians 5:10-12 [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.”*

All Christians know that we will some day stand before the judgement seat of Jesus Christ to receive the consequences of the deeds we have done, whether they are good or evil.

For any deed to be good it must pass three tests.

What we do –

There are deeds that are wrong in themselves and no circumstances can excuse them or make them good.

Why we do what we do –

In religion and morals, motive comes very near to being everything.

It is why we do what we do that determines the moral quality of our actions.

A deed which on the surface may be good, if it is done for a selfish reason it is actually evil.

This is one reason we are not qualified to judge other people for **only** the Creator God can fully know the motive behind any action. [**Psalms 139:1-4; Matthew 7:1; Romans 2:1-4; James 4:12**]

How are our good deeds done –

It is possible to pass the first two tests and fail on this third test dismally.

Above all persons a Christian should act graciously and self-effacing.

Acts of goodness should be done in private and as unostentatiously as possible, so as to avoid making the recipient feel embarrassed. [**Matthew 6:1, 3-4**]

A loan may be made, for instance, in such a manner that the one who receive it may be humiliated and hurt so deeply that the later repayment will not mentally settle the transaction. The recipient will feel cheap and inferior for a long time simply because the loan was made in the wrong spirit.

In fact, some favours done ungraciously can not be favours at all but actual injuries to the persons receiving them.

The goal for the Christian is to make the person who is receiving the favour believe that you consider they are doing you a favour to receive this gift or service. According to some scriptures this could actually be true. [**Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 19:17**]

It is scarcely necessary to point out that any contribution made grudgingly will **not** be accepted by the Creator God.

Any religious work done under protest might well be left undone, for in God's eyes it is of no value, however excellent it may seem to be.

The sum of the matter is that our works, to be good, must have our hearts and human spirit in them.

They must be the love of the Holy Spirit in us and done by the power of the Holy Spirit flowing out to other human beings. [**John 7:37-39; Galatians 5:22-23**]

[To know how to receive the Holy Spirit and allow Him to work through you, please download and study the articles under the sub-heading '*Holy Spirit*']